

be compared with the extraordinary
 plumage and
 colours of certain birds. the struggle for
 life would
 leave them unobliterated. We may
 then. hardly
 affirm that pleasure or pain are
 evidences either of
 design in our creation. or of the
 practical efficiency
 of the evolutionary process. Pain
 leads us. in
 some cases, to avoid the harmful—to
 withdraw
 a foot when it is being crushed. In
 other cases
 it is merely an irremediable affliction :
 we cannot
 voluntarily dispel a headache.
 Pleasure and pain
 cannot logically be classed as impulses
 to action :
 for an action must be performed before
 we can
 become aware of the feeling which it
 will cause
 to us. And we have already seen that
 action. in
 its essence. precedes emotion. But
 they are of
 immense importance in the formation
 of habits.
 and in swaying the hesitating
 resolutions of the
 will. We must confess that their
 interference is
 often harmful. How many vicious
 habits does
 man not owe to the pleasure of vice!